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Lloyd Wise Tanjong Págar PO Box 636 Singapore 910816 ENTERED Date of melting (day/month/year) 17 MOV 2004 Applicants or sgent's file reference FP2130/aw Applicant's or sgent's file reference FP2130/aw International Application No. PCT/SG2003/000294 30 December 2003 International Application No. PCT/SG2003/000294 International Patture Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int. Ch. 7 G01N 21/88, 21/958 Applicant AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH et al 1. This written opinion is the first drawn by this international Preliminary Examining Authority. 2. This opinion containing discious relating to the following items: 1. Type Basis of the opinion I Priority Basis of the opinion I Priority Rose oceatablishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV Lack of cinity of Invention V. Roseoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such sattement VI Certain documents side VII Certain defects in the international application 3. The FINAL DATE by which the international application 4. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion. Applicant withing the house the benefit of a further opinion (I needed) before the report will take assisted should cause the assist of this opinion. Applicant withing to have the benefit of a further opinion (I needed) before the people international preliminary examination report must be established. If no response being field, or (II) one month before the Final Date by which the international preliminary examination report must be catablished. If no response being field, or (II) one month before the Final Date by which the international preliminary examination report must be catablished. If no response being field, or (II) one month before the Final Date, the international preliminary examination report must be catablished. If no response is field a prismant annothments, as Rule 56.8 an	To:	JE DATE	PCT RECEIVED			
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E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au JULIA HU						
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Tracsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 Telephone No. (02) 6283 2754	Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	,	ł	2) 6283 2754		

. WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/SG2003/000294

ī.	Basis of the opinion	ı			
1.	. With regard to the elements of the international application:*				
	X the international application as originally filed.				
	the description, pages, as originally filed,				
	pages, filed with the demand,				
	pages, received on with the letter of	Ì			
	the claims, pages, as originally filed,				
	pages, as amended under Article 19,				
	pages , filed with the demand,				
	pages, received on with the letter of				
	the drawings, pages, as originally filed,	1			
	pages , filed with the demand,	1			
	pages, received on with the letter of				
	the sequence listing part of the description:	١			
	pages , as originally filed	ļ			
	pages, filed with the demand				
	pages, received on with the letter of	1			
2.	With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.				
·.	These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:				
l	the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).				
	the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).	1			
	the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).				
3.	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:				
	contained in the international application in printed form.	1			
	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.	١			
	furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.	.			
	furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.				
	The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.				
	The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.				
4.	The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:				
	the description, pages				
	the claims, Nos.				
	the drawings, sheets/fig.	_			
5.	go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).	э —			
* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"					

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/SG2003/000294

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
 citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-43	YES
•	Claims	•	МО
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-43	YES
•	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-43	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

NOVELTY (N) AND INVENTIVE STEP (IS) claims 1-43

The invention of the claims is a method/apparatus for detecting faults within a transparent panel, comprising placing a light-transmissive interface in contact with the panel and transmitting a beam of light through the interface into the panel, and propagating within the panel along a path where total internal reflection is realized at surfaces of the panel; and observing the light scattered by the faults and exiting the panel.

All of the documents cited in the International Search Report were entegory "A" only. No individual citation or obvious combination of citations disclose or fairly suggest such a method/apparatus.

The closest art of JP 2001-305072 and JP 2000-074848 each discloses a method/apparatus where scattered light from a default is detected while light propagates through a transparent panel/substrate by total internal reflection. However, there is no light transmissive interface in contact with the transparent panel.

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.
PCT/SG2003/000294

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

- 1. Claim 1 is not clear because there is no antecedent to the glass panel (page 18 lines 5, 7, 8 & 9). It is noted that only a transparent panel is pre-defined.
- Claim 25 is directed to an apparatus for detecting faults within a transparent panel, however, there is no
 component/means defined throughout the claim that describes how faults are actually detected. In other words, the
 detection of scattered light which appears to be an essential feature of the invention is not defined in the
 independent claim.
- 3. Claim 38 is not clear because I cannot see an antecedent to the scattered light.